



**Professional and
Administrative Staff Association**

**International Union of
Operating Engineers, Local 963**

February 16, 2021

Honourable Jennifer Whiteside

Ministry of Education
PO Box 9045 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2
E: educ.minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Whiteside,

The Vancouver Board of Education was extremely thankful for the Safe Return to Schools Grant your Government provided for the 2020-2021 school year. Our District's share of the grant was \$3,556,154. As per the spending guidelines associated with the grant the funding is planned to be spent in the following manner:

• Cleaning Supplies	\$ 431,612
• Additional Time to Clean	1,946,484
• Upgrading Sinks and Faucets	776,055
• Masks and Face Shields	195,598
• Purchase of Technology	206,405

While the distribution and administration of vaccines in the Province has begun, the Board is concerned that, with the ongoing pandemic and the Federal Government's projection that all Canadians who wish to get a vaccine would be able to get one by the end of September, there will be lingering pandemic health and safety concerns for the 2021-2022 school year. At the Board of Education's Public Meeting held on November 30, 2020 the Board adopted the following motion:

That the Vancouver Board of Education write a letter to the new Minister of Education to request that adequate and stable funding for schools to respond to the COVID pandemic be included in the next Provincial budget.

Accordingly, the Board is requesting your consideration of extending the Safe Return to Schools Grant to the next school year to ensure, to the extent necessary, that the measures put in place this year to address the health and safety of students and staff can be maintained while the vaccination programs continue, and the impact of the pandemic is lessened.

With regards,



Gord Lau, Chair
DPAC



Carmen Cho, Board Chair
Vancouver School Board



Catherine Thomas, President
VEPVPA



Tyson Shmyr, President
PASA



Tim Chester, President
IUOE, Local 963

cc: VBE Trustees
Suzanne Hoffman, Superintendent
J. David Green, Secretary-Treasurer